

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2004

MONTANANS WARNED OF DOOR-TO-DOOR PAVING CONTRACTORS

The Montana Consumer Protection Office today warned Montanans to be cautious of itinerant traveling contractors who come to our state each year during the spring and summer selling asphalt sealing/paving services.

Most of the victims are approached through door-to-door contacts. The suspicious person will offer to fix the driveway, but the final price will not be what was agreed on. The work will be of very poor quality, including an inadequate amount of asphalt to do the job properly. The check given for payment will be cashed immediately.

Consumers are advised to beware of any contractor who:

- solicits door to door;
- drives an unmarked vehicle;
- has no city or state licenses;
- offers a price too good to be true;
- has an out-of-town address;
- wants to be paid in cash; or
- wants part of payment in advance.

When approached by these contractors, the Consumer Protection Office urges consumers to ask for references and verify workman's compensation insurance; required building permits; and telephone numbers on receipts. Above all, ***don't pay in advance*** and don't pay more than the agreed upon price. Pay only after the work has passed an inspection.

Before signing contracts, consumers are encouraged to contact the Montana Consumer Protection Office at 444-4500.